

1113 BROADWAY  
HIGHLAND, IL 62249

# Public Works

( 6 1 8 ) 6 5 4 - 6 8 2 3

S E P T E M B E R 9 , 2 0 1 1



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Joe Gillespie  
Director

Mike Lengermann  
Supervisor ST & A

Russ Parker  
Supervisor W&S

Bill Zimmer  
Supervisor WRF

Mike Buss  
Supervisor WTP

Clint Conrad  
Resident Engineer

Sherry Kesner  
Admin. Assistant

## Where Were You?

This weekend will mark the 10 year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington D.C. Where were you?

I remember that morning, it was clear and bright, the work day was just underway. Our offices were located on Plaza Drive at that time and we shared the office and break room area with the Electric Department. Someone came to the office and said that a plane had just hit the World Trade Center. We all went to the break room and turned on the television and as we watched the second plane hit the other tower. I think that was the moment when we all realized that this was more than just a terrible accident, something was really wrong. It's funny the kind of things that you remember. I know exactly who was in that room and where they were standing, it is a picture as burned into my mind as the pictures that were being broadcast over the television.

As the morning unfolded we received word of the attack on the Pentagon. Our friend, colleague, and the Director of Light and Power at the time, Sam Sivewright, was in Washington that day. Sam was also a Colonel in the Air National Guard, and was in Washington serving his county in that capacity. It would be later the next day before we heard from him that he was okay.

As another plane fell from the sky in Pennsylvania and every airplane in the country landed at the nearest airport, we began to take inventory of our loved ones. Families on vacation were stranded away from home. A rental car became a scarce commodity. Everything was different, and as we know now would never be the same.

During those days the employees of the Public Works Department came to work, but the phones were curiously quiet. Suddenly there were no potholes to be filled, noisy water meters to replace, or streets that needed sweeping. Those mundane things just were not important.

In the days that followed things began to return to what would become our new normal. The City added a few more fences and gates. The terrorist threat level color chart was posted on every bulletin board. We went back to work.

This weekend, if you have a moment, take time to remember that day, the people lost, the people they left behind, the ordinary, and the heroic among them.